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1947-TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF  
HUMAN BETTERMENT-1972

The Human Betterment League  
of North Carolina



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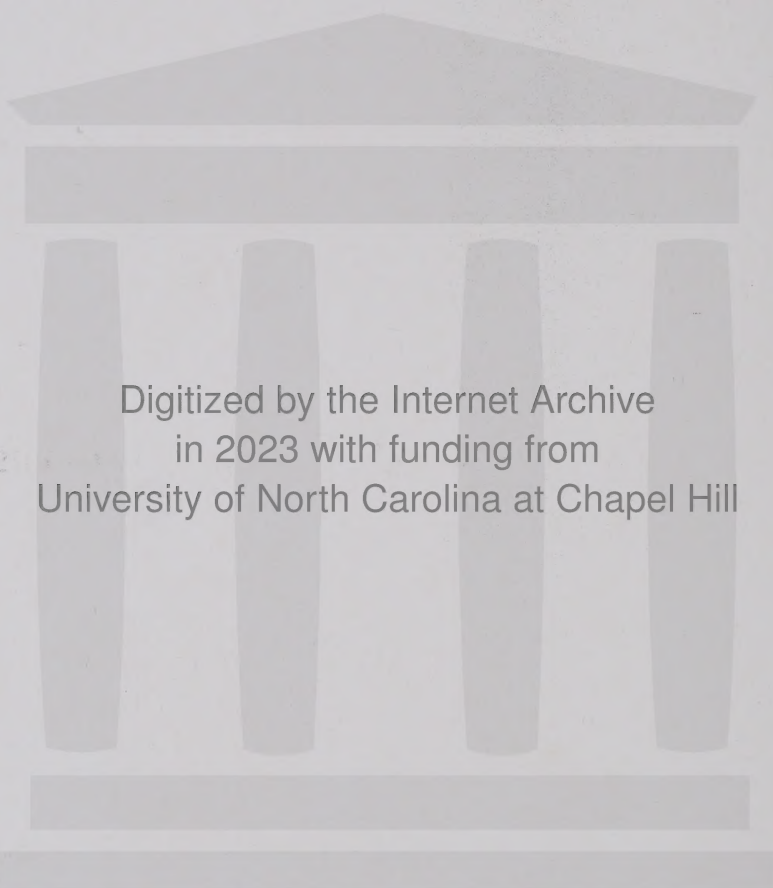
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THE HUMAN BETTERMENT LEAGUE  
OF NORTH CAROLINA

*Twenty-Fifth Anniversary*

1947 — Twenty-Five Years of Human Betterment — 1972



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THE HUMAN BETTERMENT LEAGUE  
OF NORTH CAROLINA

*Twenty-Fifth Anniversary*

1947 — Twenty-Five Years of Human Betterment — 1972

THE HUMAN BETTERMENT LEAGUE OF NORTH CAROLINA

P. O. Box 3036

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C. 27102

# THE HUMAN BETTERMENT LEAGUE OF NORTH CAROLINA

The Human Betterment League of North Carolina is a voluntary agency working for the conservation of North Carolina's human resources. Its main purpose is the education of the public in family planning and in population problems and control, with particular emphasis on the prevention of births of mentally defective children.

Organized in 1947, the League is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary. Throughout these years much progress has been made toward achieving these goals.

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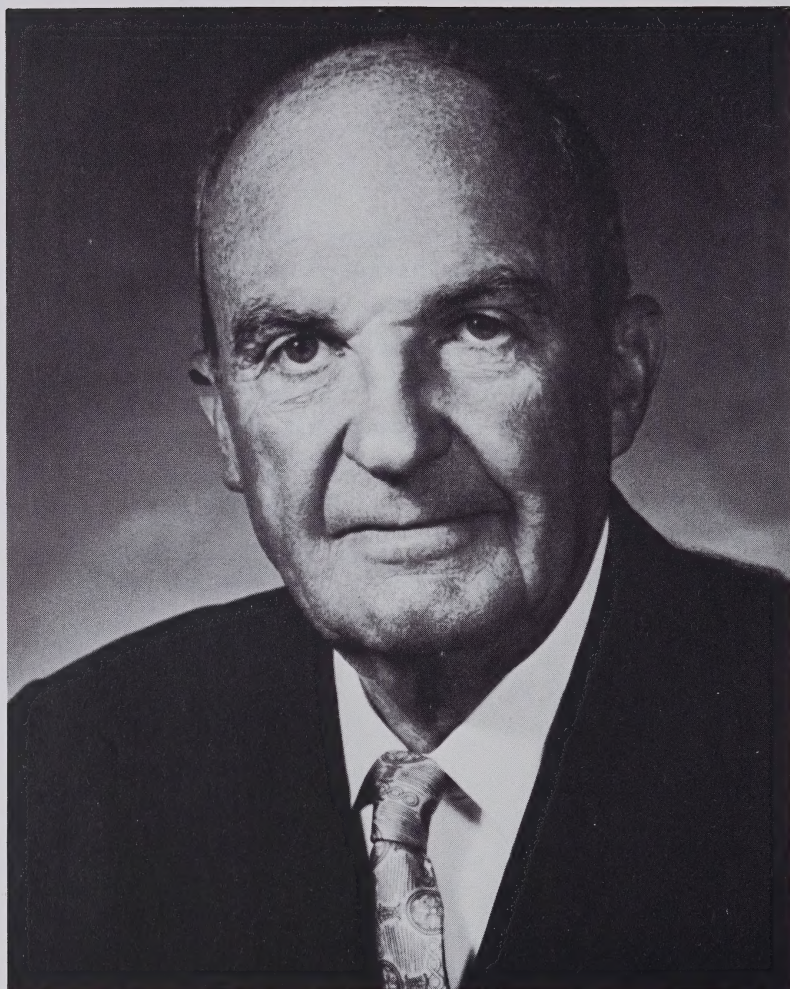
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\* \* \* \*

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# JAMES GORDON HANES

## *In Appreciation*

To James Gordon Hanes, whose lamented death at the age of 86 took place July 22, the Human Betterment League owes its continued operation over the quarter-century of its history. Mr. Hanes was one of the moving forces primarily responsible for its organization in 1947. Throughout the twenty-five-year period since, Mr. Hanes has been the principal benefactor of the League, and his support has sustained its work throughout that time.

Mr. Hanes was keenly interested in the overall objective of the League, the improvement of the quality of human life. He recognized the importance, for themselves, for their potential descendants, and for society as a whole, of preventing the mentally defective from reproducing themselves, and he therefore staunchly supported the League's encouragement of the implementation of the state's Eugenics Law. In later years, he also warmly supported the League's educational programs in family and population planning.

The same dedication of interest and purpose which Mr. Hanes gave the Human Betterment League he also gave to other business, civic, and public activities. The direction which he gave to the Hanes Hosiery Mills Company, as president and chairman of the board for thirty-seven years, brought it to preeminence as the world's largest producer of women's seamless nylon hosiery.

In public life, Mr. Hanes served on the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen and as mayor of the city, and on the Forsyth Board of County Commissioners and as chairman of that body.

James Gordon Hanes served well his community, his state, and his nation. The Human Betterment League records his invaluable services to it with continuing gratitude. Because his contribution to the public good through this organization has been so significant and so useful, it is fitting that the Human Betterment League of North Carolina, on this its twenty-fifth anniversary, pay tribute to him, in grateful appreciation for his leadership.

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Mrs. Jessie M. Stroup.....*Secretary*

James G. Hanes.....*Treasurer*

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# TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

NOVEMBER 14, 1972

CAROLINA INN

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

BALLROOM, 7 P.M.

Mr. John T. McDowell, President, presiding

INVOCATION.....Dr. Roy T. Parker

TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES G. HANES.....Bishop Kenneth Goodson

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER.....Dr. Charles H. Hendricks

ADDRESS.....Dr. Allan C. Barnes  
Vice-President, The Rockefeller Foundation

## “OUR SEEDS SPROUTED” \*

Twenty-five years ago a group of concerned citizens, broadly representative of the health, education, welfare, legal, and business communities, organized the Human Betterment League of North Carolina.

The charter, adopted March 22, 1947, called for:

--The study of the care and treatment of the mentally ill and mentally defective in North Carolina.

--Exploration of the basic causes of retardation and emotional illness.

--Education of “the public in this field in order to assure the best possible care of the mentally ill, the mentally defective, and the children of these groups.”

George H. Lawrence, Superintendent of Public Welfare of Buncombe County, whose interest in this area grew out of his experiences as a public welfare officer, served as the first president of the League. Dr. A. M. Jordan, of the University of North Carolina, was elected vice-president. His research in Piedmont North Carolina had revealed that 4½ per cent of school children in this region were mentally deficient. Mrs. Jessie M. Stroup, community leader of Winston-Salem, was elected secretary and James G. Hanes, whose interests in human welfare were as “seamless as the hose he manufactured”, was elected treasurer and continued to serve throughout these 25 years.

In 1947 sterilization was generally considered by professional workers as the primary means of limiting retardation and mental illness, and the League looked upon implementation of the sterilization law of the State as one of its objectives.

North Carolina’s original eugenics law, the 1929 Sterilization Act, was sponsored by H. L. Milner, Senator from Burke County, and a member of the Burke County Board of Public Welfare. His thinking was far in advance of his time. In 1933 the Sterilization Act was declared unconstitutional by the North Carolina Supreme Court because there was no provision for notice of hearing or right of appeal.

The present law, passed in 1933, was introduced by Representative W. A. Thompson of Beaufort County, a member of the Board of Directors of Caswell Training School. The bill was prepared by Dr. John S. Bradway, Director of the Duke Legal Aid Clinic, with the assistance of Professor R. H. Wettack, of the University of North Carolina Law School, Dr. Harry W. Crane and Dr. R. Eugene Brown of the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare. Several amendments to this law have been passed in subsequent years.

\* Joyful comment made by Mrs. Stroup upon the occasion of the Twentieth Anniversary of the League.



The law provides for sterilization at state or county expense of patients, in or out of institutions, who might produce children who are mentally defective.

In the beginning, the Human Betterment League placed special emphasis on the urgency of the application of this law because of the appalling number of rejections from illiteracy and mental deficiencies (48 per cent in 1944) in North Carolina during World War II. It was out of the experiences of World War II that realization of the need for a citizens' organization such as the League arose.

A North Carolina nurse vacationing in Florida, chanced to meet Miss Elsie Wulkop, Head of the Children's Department of Massachusetts General Hospital, and expressed her concern at the high rate of mental deficiency in North Carolina. Miss Wulkop, upon her return to Massachusetts, brought the matter to the attention of Dr. Clarence J. Gamble, a distinguished geneticist who had engaged in world-wide research in this field. He sent Miss Wulkop to North Carolina to make a preliminary survey. The first survey was undertaken by Dr. A. M. Jordan, Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of North Carolina, in a study of a rural county — "Testing the Intelligence of the Children of a Rural County."

The results of the survey interested James G. Hanes, who saw the need for a comparable study of an industrial city and arranged for Dr. Jordan to direct it — "Efficiency of Group Tests of Intelligence in Discovering the Mentally Deficient."

The findings of these two studies convinced state leaders that a civic organization was badly needed to tell the people of North Carolina that something must be done to improve the quality of the state's human resources; and so the Human Betterment League of North Carolina was born.

The League asked Miss Wulkop to serve as its field secretary, under the direction of Dr. Gamble. When she resigned in 1949 Mrs. Stroup took over the work, and Dr. Gamble continued his interest and support for several years.

In 1936 Miss Alice Gray, a trained nurse and charter member of the League, had been instrumental, when working with Mrs. Margaret Sanger, in obtaining federal legal action to remove the postal ban against dissemination of birth control information or materials through the mails. Miss Gray approached two influential North Carolina Congressmen, Robert L. Doughton and Franklin W. Hancock, for assistance. Working together, they were able to set in motion steps necessary for removal of the ban.

The way, thus, had already been opened for the League to begin an active educational campaign of mailing literature to university faculty members, graduate students, physicians, nurses, ministers, public officials, welfare workers, and civic leaders.

This distribution of educational material has continued through the years. During the first ten years of the League's existence, 578,680 pieces of literature were distributed. In addition to many requests from North Carolina and other states, requests for literature have been received from many other countries including England, India, Pakistan, South Africa, Argentina, and medical schools in Japan, Liberia, and Zanzibar.

In addition to the mailing program, the League has furthered its educational work by talks to civic clubs and other groups. Exhibits have been set up and literature distributed at conferences, workshops, meetings, and conventions.

During recent years there has been a changing atmosphere in public opinion concerning the care, treatment, and causation of retardation and mental illness. This expansion of concern has made it possible for the League to broaden its programs into the entire field of conservation of North Carolina's human resources. The main purpose of the League is now considered to be education of the public in family planning and population problems and control, with particular emphasis on the prevention of births of mentally defective children.

In view of this changing climate of opinion, the League invited concerned citizens and public officials to meet in 1966 to assist with the evaluation of the organization's role. The thrust of the League's program, these consultants suggested, should be to:

- Serve as a clearing house (coordination, synchronization) for family planning programs throughout the state.

- Serve as a catalyst for family planning in human service areas.

- Assist in motivating use of family planning services.

- Develop and distribute appropriate materials (flyers, leaflets) in family planning.

- Follow up work of family planning clinics through the use of trained volunteers.

- Identify areas of needed research in family planning and stimulate appropriate exploration.

The first step in this broadened objective was the production of the family planning film, "Windsong", which won the gold medal top award in the category of *Health and Social Welfare* at the International Film and TV Festival of New York in 1971. Gifts from North Carolina foundations and concerned individuals made possible the production of this film.

More than 30 prints of the film have been sold to agencies in North Carolina and elsewhere. For example, the Virginia State Department of Health has purchased five prints and is using them extensively. The League also rents copies of the film.



"Windsong" has been shown to such agencies as health departments, social service departments, medical schools, schools of public health, community colleges, public schools, public libraries, churches, university extension services, agricultural extension programs, family planning programs, two international family planning conferences, community action programs, two international film festivals, audiovisual workshops, health care training programs, Planned Parenthood associations, medical associations, nurses' organizations, and civic clubs.

The League also produced four 60-second TV spots, which are being widely used throughout the state. Several representatives of the League have appeared on television programs in behalf of the film. "Windsong" has been shown on six North Carolina television stations. Altogether, more than a million persons have seen the film.

In an attempt to broaden still further the League's program, a second evaluation of the League's role was held in 1972, with community leaders, and consultants from medical schools and public agencies.

The Human Betterment League of North Carolina represents one of the earliest evidences of concern about population problems on the part of citizens in any state. While progress in the solution of these problems, and in family planning and population control has far exceeded the most hopeful expectations of the League, many problems still remain to be solved which can be accomplished only through the leadership of the citizens of North Carolina.

A voluntary organization such as the League, unaffiliated as it is with any other agency, is still the best means of achieving an educated public opinion.





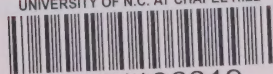
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